

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:

requesting first device-related information from a network device over a network,
wherein the first device-related information includes meter-reading
information;

receiving the first device-related information from the network device over the
network;

obtaining multifunction peripheral information, wherein the obtaining
multifunction peripheral information includes reading a meter of the
multifunction peripheral;

generating a device-related report based at least in part on said first device-related
information and based at least in part on the multifunction peripheral
information; and

sending said device-related report to a recipient device.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based on said device related information-based at least in part on the recipient device.
3. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a faxing module and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report via fax using the faxing module.

4. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a network connection and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report to an electronic faxing service over the network connection.
5. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises an email module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via email using the email module.
6. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via hypertext transfer protocol using the hypertext transfer protocol module.
7. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a secure hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via secure hypertext transfer protocol using the secure hypertext transfer protocol module.
8. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a file transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via file transfer protocol using the file transfer protocol module.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises an encryption module and wherein ~~the~~ multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of encrypting the device-related report.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises an identification module and wherein ~~the~~ multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the steps of retrieving an identifier for the multifunction peripheral and augmenting the device-related report with the identifier for the multifunction peripheral.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of requesting ~~first~~ device-related information from ~~a~~ ~~the network~~ device at regular intervals.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of requesting ~~first~~ device-related information using ~~the~~ simple network management protocol.
13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 12, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of receiving ~~first~~ device-related information from the network device using the simple network management protocol.
14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~ device-related information comprises one or more of device information, device status, ~~meter reading information~~, and consumables information.
15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of accepting

user configuration input, and wherein the user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the collection of ~~first~~ device-related information from the network device by the multifunction peripheral.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input via a remote interface, and wherein the user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the collection of ~~the first~~ device-related information from the network device by the multifunction peripheral.
17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of requesting ~~the first~~ device-related information from ~~a~~ the network device at intervals defined by the user configuration input.
18. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based in part on the user configuration input, and wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device at an interval defined by the user configuration input.
19. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a means for executing instructions of a java application and the steps are performed by instructions of a particular java application.
20. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the network device is a second multifunction peripheral.

21. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the recipient device is one of the group consisting of a fax machine, a computer, and dedicated hardware executing one of the group consisting of an email client, an http server, and https server, and an ftp server.
22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of:
requesting ~~a second set of~~ ~~second~~ device-related information from a second network device over a network, wherein the ~~first~~ network device is distinct from the second network device;
receiving the second ~~set of~~ device-related information from the second network device over the network;
generating the device-related report based on said ~~first~~ device-related information and said second ~~set of~~ device-related information; and
sending said device-related report to the recipient device.
23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of:
accessing ~~a second set of device related information~~ ~~multifunction peripheral~~ information from the multifunction peripheral;
generating the device-related report based on said ~~first~~ device-related information and said second ~~set of device related~~ ~~multifunction peripheral~~ information;
and
sending said device-related report to the recipient device.
24. (ORIGINAL) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to receive an acknowledgement over the network from the network device.
25. (ORIGINAL) A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:
requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a network;

receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the network;
generating a meter report based on said meter data; and
sending said meter report to a recipient device.

26. (ORIGINAL) A multifunction peripheral comprising:
means for requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a network;
means for receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the network;
means for generating a meter report based on said meter data; and
means for sending said meter report to a recipient device.
27. (CANCELED)
28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:
requesting device-related information from a network device over a network;
receiving device-related information from the network device over the network;
reading a meter of the multifunction peripheral;
generating a device-related report based on the received device-related information and device-related information from the multifunction peripheral; and
sending said device-related report to a recipient device,
wherein the device-related information includes meter reading information,
wherein the device-related report includes an identification of the multifunction peripheral.